Classical Mediterranean Summary

Greece formed reached height at 5th century BCE and with major leader, **Alexander the Great** and created the **Olympic Games**. Roman formed around 800 BCE, creating new government called **Roman Republic** and major leaders like **Julius Caesar**. Both civilizations fought and had major wars, The Greeks, Peloponnesian War and the Romans, the Punic War. The Greeks’ political structure was **direct democracy** and the Romans were **roman republic.** Both structures allowed people to actively participate in decision of the state. In Democracy, people were giving more power, attending assemblies to decide on major decision of the state. They could hold an executive position. In a Republic, almost all the power is given to two consuls and the senate. Roman citizens also attended assemblies, but could only vote for a magistrate. Both the Greeks and Romans did not create a major religion. Both believed Greco-Roman religion, that human life was regulated by a complex set of elevated spirit’s nature, god and goddess, which promoted political loyalty. They had a fascination for god seen as symbols of serious inquiry into human nature. Christianity arouse in Rome influencing the culture. Philosophies like **Aristotle** influenced Rome and **Socrates** influenced Greece, spoke of ethical behavior/morals. Both flourished in science, philosophies, and especially art. The Greeks created plays, poetry, and literature. Trade, slaves, and commercial farming heavily influenced Greek and Roman economies. Slaves were used for many jobs from housework to military use. Farming changed into commercial for the high demand of productions need for its trades with the Middle East. Traded promoted public works and storage facilities. Both Romans and Greeks had tight family structures in a patriarchal society. Roman civilization declined due territorial lose and a suffering economic reversals after around 180BCE.